

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 /069 W

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R 160702Z MAR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9544

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, LA

SUBJ: LAOTIAN DELEGATION TO PEKING

1. THE MARCH 15 ARRIVAL OF LAOTIAN PRIME MINISTER AND PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL KAYSONE PHOMVIHAN MARKED THE RETURN OF POMP AND CEREMONY TO PEKING FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE DEATH OF CHOU EN-LAI AND HERALDED THE FIRST VISIT BY A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT SINCE DECEMBER. AT THE AIRPORT AMIDST A CAST OF THOUSANDS, A BAND, AND HONOR GUARD WERE ACTING PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG AND TWO FELLOW POLITBURO MEMBERS, PARTY IDEOLOGUE YAO WEN-YUAN AND WU TEH, THE LATTER MAKING HIS FIRST APPEARANCE SINCE THE CHOU FUNERAL. THE KAYSONE VISIT IS AN APPARENTLY OBLIGATORY ONE, COMING AFTER HIS PREVIOUS TREKS TO HANOI AND MOSCOW, AND APPEARS DESIGNED TO ELICIT FURTHER ASSISTANCE FROM THE CHINESE. INCLUDED ON THE LAOTIAN

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DELEGATION ARE THE CHIEF OF STAFF, INDUSTRY AND TRADE

MINISTER AND OTHERS, SUGGESTING THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ARE AGENDA TOPICS.

2. ALTHOUGH THE FIRST NIGHT'S BANQUET SPEECHES BY HUA AND KAYSONE WERE LARGELY DEVOTED TO EXPRESSIONS OF MUTUAL FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP, HUA INCLUDED A BARB AT THE SOVIETS. AFTER FIRST CLAIMING THAT "CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS IS THE CAUSE OF WORLD INTRASTABILITY," HUA CONDEMNED "IN PARTICULAR, THE SUPERPOWER THAT HAWKS DETENTE WHILE EXTENDING ITS GRABBING CLAWS EVERYWHERE." HUA AGAIN (HONG KONG 2010) REFERRED TO THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN IN CHINA AS A "REVOLUTIONARY MASS DEBATE" CALLING IT A "CONTINUATION AND DEEPENING OF THE GREAT PROLETARIAN CULTURAL REVOLUTION" AND POINTING OUT THAT IT IS TAKING PLACE IN "EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, LITERATURE AND ART AND OTHER FIELDS." THIS IS ALMOST IDENTICAL WITH THE LANGUAGE HUA USED FOR FORMER PRESIDENT NIXON, ADDING ONLY LITERATURE AND ART TO THE FIELDS NOW UNDER "DEBATE." THE REMAINDER OF HUA'S SPEECH WAS DEVOTED TO CONGRATULATIONS FOR THE TREMENDOUS LAOTIAN VICTORIES, INCLUDING THE STATEMENT THAT THEY HAD "FINALLY DEFEATED THE U.S. IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION."

3. KAYSONE STUCK TO PREDICTABLE GROUNDS, PRAISING LAOTIAN/CHINESE FRIENDSHIP AND CHINESE ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLEDGING SUPPORT FOR THE LIBERATION OF TAIWAN. HE ALSO PAID DUE REGARD TO THE "ENORMOUS AND EFFECTIVE SUPPORT AND AID" GIVEN LAOS BY THE PRC AND EXPRESSED THE "ARDENT HOPE" THAT THE PRC WOULD "CONTINUE TO GIVE US THEIR MULTI-FORM SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE." IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE LAO BALANCING ACT BETWEEN VIET-NAM, THE USSR AND THE PRC, HOWEVER, HE ADDED THAT HE WOULD "ALSO LIKE TO EXPRESS ONCE AGAIN OUR DEEP THANKS TO THE OTHER FRATERNAL SOCIALIST COUNTRIES."

4. ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE VISIT, KAYSONE AND THE REST OF HIS DELEGATION ALSO PAID A CALL ON THE AGEING CHU TEH, NPC CHAIRMAN AND NOMINAL CHIEF OF STATE FOR THE PRC. THE REMAINDER OF THE FIRST AFTERNOON WAS TAKEN UP WITH TALKS WITH HUA AND YAO WEN-YUAN WHICH, ACCORDING TO NCNA, "WERE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONDUCTED IN A CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND FRATERNAL FRIENDSHIP." CROSS

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